

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A flow restrictor for preventing collapse of an eye during removal of tissue fragments from within the eye using a flexible and resilient aspiration line having a distal configured for insertion into the eye and having an inner diameter between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters, comprising:

    a filter housing having a filter disposed therein coupled to a proximal end of the aspiration line;

    a flow restrictor coupled to a downstream side of said filter housing; the flow restrictor having an orifice having a fixed diameter between 0.1 and 1.0 millimeters to create a non-linear relationship between a fluid pressure and a fluid flowrate for a range of fluid pressures, the non-linear relationship having a selected maximal flow rate independent of fluid pressure thereby limiting surges in fluid pressure caused by clearance of tissue fragments blocking the aspiration line from exceeding the selected maximal flow rate and thus preventing collapse of the eye.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The flow restrictor of claim 1, wherein said flow restrictor is located within an output luer attached to said filter housing.

4. (Previously presented) The flow restrictor of claim 3, wherein the diameter of the orifice is determined by an inner diameter of a scaling insert disposed within said output luer.

5. (Previously presented) An aspiration tube assembly for a medical system comprising:

    an input tube having an inner diameter between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters;

    a filter housing coupled to said input tube;

    a filter located within said filter housing; and,

a flow restrictor coupled to said filter housing and having an orifice having a fixed inner diameter selected from the range of 0.1 to 1.0 millimeters to create a non-linear relationship between a fluid pressure and a fluid flow rate for a range of fluid pressures.

6-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A flow restrictor for a medical aspiration system with a tube having an inner diameter between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters, comprising:

a filter housing coupled to the tube;  
filter means for filtering a flow of fluid through said filter housing; and,  
flow restrictor means having a fixed diameter orifice, the flow restrictor means located downstream from said filter means, for restricting the flow of fluid through said filter housing and creating a non-linear relationship between a fluid pressure and a fluid flowrate for a range of fluid pressures, the non-linear relationship having a selected maximal flow rate independent of fluid pressure thereby limiting surges in fluid pressure caused by clearance of tissue fragments blocking the tube from exceeding the selected maximal flow rate.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The flow restrictor of claim 16, wherein said flow restrictor means includes and output luer attached to said filter housing.

19. (Previously presented) The flow restrictor of claim 18, wherein said output luer includes a scaling insert having a fixed inner diameter.

20. (Previously presented) An aspiration tube assembly for a medical system, comprising:

an input tube having an inner diameter between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters;  
a filter housing coupled to said input tube;  
filter means for filtering a flow of fluid through said filter housing;  
input means for coupling said input tube to said filter means; and  
flow restrictor means having a fixed diameter orifice, the flow restrictor means located downstream from said filter means, for restricting the flow of fluid through said filter housing and creating a non-linear relationship between a fluid pressure and a fluid flowrate for a range of fluid pressures, the non-linear relationship having a selected maximal flow rate independent of fluid pressure thereby limiting surges in fluid pressure caused by clearance of tissue fragments blocking the tube from exceeding the selected maximal flow rate.

21. (Original) The aspiration tube assembly of claim 20, wherein said input means includes an input luer that is pressed into said filter means.

22. (Original) The aspiration tube assembly of claim 20, wherein said filter means includes a filter that is pressed into said filter housing.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The aspiration tube assembly of claim 20, wherein said flow restrictor means includes an output luer attached to said filter housing.

25. (Previously presented) The aspiration tube assembly of claim 24, wherein said output luer includes a scaling insert having a fixed inner diameter.

26-28. (Cancelled)